

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 48, line 6, as follows:

The noise energy reduction rates in the buckets with the abovementioned respective items will be described in comparative terms. Item 3 is the ideal attachment state of the laminated plate 220; however, this involves an extremely high manufacturing cost, and there are also problems in terms of the occurrence of floating caused by collisions during the use of the bucket, so that this item is not suitable for practical use. On the other hand, in the case of item 2 which uses the first embodiment, it is seen that a reduction rate that is substantially close to that of the ideal attachment state can be achieved. Moreover, in the case of item 1 which differs from Embodiment 1, in addition to the fact that the reduction rate is low, no effect on the bottom plate 212 is obtained, either. It appears that this is due to the fact that the vibrational energy cannot be sufficiently dissipated because of the insufficiency of the attenuating effect. Item 4 is an example that was worked in order to investigate the effect of the connecting members 215 alone; in this case, the reduction rate of the side plate contribution was 7%. It is inferred that this is due to the fact that the vibration amplitude of the peripheral edge parts of the side plate 211 is reduced by the connecting members 215, which also serve to reinforce the bottom plate 212. Thus, the reason that noise is reduced by the reinforcement of the bottom plate 212 is that the rigidity Y of the bucket 200 is increased, and the reason that noise is reduced by the laminated

plate 220 is that the damping ratio ζ of the bucket 200 is increased. It is known that the vibrational energy E_v within a fixed period of time is proportional to $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2Y\zeta \times (1 - \zeta^2)^{1/2}}}$ and $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2Y\zeta \times (1 - \zeta^2)^{1/2}}}$, and if an improvement in rigidity and an improvement in damping characteristics are simultaneously achieved, an effect that is greater than that obtained by simple addition is achieved.